Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for requesting a server to provide a service to an application, said apparatus comprising:

an input for receiving from the application a service request including first information which directs [[a]] said server to directly route to the application a data stream associated with [[a]] said service; [[and]]

an information transformer coupled to said input, [[for]] said information transformer operative to:

[[transforming]] transform said service request including said first information in said service request into a modified service request containing second information; and,

transmit said modified service request to said server, wherein said second information contained therein [[which]] directs the server to indirectly route the data stream to said application via a proxy which is installed in a communication path [[from]] intermediate to the server [[to]] and the application, said proxy [[and which is]] operable [[for performing]] to perform a proxy operation on the data stream before it is delivered to said application.

2.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data compression operation, a data transformation operation and a data transcoding operation.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data encryption operation and a data caching operation.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of Claim 1, <u>further</u> including a socket interceptor coupled to said input for intercepting the service request as provided by the application and for forwarding the service request to said input.

5.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first information includes a first IP address and port number produced by the application, and wherein said second information includes a second IP address and port number produced by said information transformer.

6.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said second information includes information which identifies for the server how to route the data stream to the proxy.

7.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the proxy is a first proxy in a chain <u>of</u> interconnected proxies.

8.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said second information includes information that identifies an input network service point associated with the proxy.

9.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 8, including a further input for receiving said second information from an apparatus that has automatically allocated said input network service point.

10.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the input network service point includes one of a TCP socket and a UDP socket.

11.   (Original)   The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first information includes a first routable address such as an IP address and any additional required information to address the application, and wherein said second information

includes a second routable address and any additional information provided by said information transformer.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A method of requesting a server to provide a service to an application, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving from the application a service request including first information which directs [[a]] said server to directly route to the application a data stream associated with [[a]] said service; [[and]]

transforming said service request including said first information in said service request into a modified service request containing second information; and,

transmitting said modified service request to said server, wherein said second information contained therein [[which]] directs the server to indirectly route the data stream to said application via a proxy which is installed in a communication path [[from]] intermediate to the server [[to]] and the application, said proxy [[and which is]] operable [[for performing]] to perform a proxy operation on the data stream before it is delivered to said application.

13.   (Original)   The method of Claim 12, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data compression operation, a data transformation operation and a data transcoding operation.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 12, wherein the proxy operation includes one of a data encryption operation and a data caching operation.

15.   (Original)   The method of Claim 12, wherein said receiving step includes intercepting the service request as provided by the application.

16.   (Original)   The method of Claim 12, wherein said first information includes a first IP address and port number produced by the application, and wherein said second information includes a second IP address and port number.

17.   (Original)   The method of Claim 12, wherein said second information includes information which identifies for the server how to route the data stream to the proxy.

18.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 17, wherein the proxy is a first proxy in a chain of interconnected proxies.

19.   (Original)   The method of Claim 17, wherein said second information includes information that identifies an input network service point associated with the proxy.

20.   (Original)   The method of Claim 19, including receiving the second information from an apparatus that has automatically allocated said input network service point.

21.   (Original)   The method of Claim 19, wherein the input network service point includes one of a TCP socket and a UDP socket.

22.   (Original)   The method of Claim 12, wherein said first information includes all necessary routing information and additional required information to address the application, and wherein said second information includes a second routing information and additional required information to address the application.

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